

# LIBERAL REPUBLICAN.

VOL. 3, NO. 33.

DALLAS, OREGON, SATURDAY, NOV. 2, 1872.

WHOLE NO. 138.

## The Liberal Republican

Is Issued Every Saturday Morning, at Dallas, Polk County, Oregon.

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### SPEECH OF STUART TAYLOR.

We call special attention to the speech printed below on this page, and ask every Republican in the County to read it carefully, and then determine whether or not, he can answer his conscience, by going to the polls on next Tuesday and depositing his ballot for Grant.

FELLOW CITIZENS—Standing here to-night, I do so with no trembling limbs, no timid heart, no faltering tongue, because the voice of the people of our States in our Union have not been raised as loudly as we hoped they would be in their recent local elections, in favor of the candidates who professed our principles, and stood steadfast under our banner. Far be it from me, sir, to grow pale and cowardly, and desert my colors; as flies the hound from the caresses of the belaboring whip, because we have not been gratified as we had reason to suppose we would be. We must expect some reverses in the preliminary skirmishes along the lines. Our pickets may be driven in; our advanced guards may be captured; but what is this to a brave army; the grand battle, sir, where legion after legion shall be sent in upon the field, is yet to come; and these puny bugle whistle and hoodlum drum beats of the foe, strike no panic to our ranks; for behind us, comes the serried lines of the people of all the States, who, like an avenging Achilles, conquering and slaying like the arch genius of Combat, round the walls of Troy, press their standards on to victory. Falter not; faint not by the wayside! Let each one of us stand up to the full height of his manhood, and work while there is yet day! A nation's life demands a nation's Providence; and we will find that in the ashes of a few defeats will yet be stirred our wanted fires, and their flames rise, Phoenix-like to Jove.

Knowing the justice of our cause, sir, we choose rather to deal in truth than fiction; and, inasmuch as for us the clouds may have looked threatening, we know that darker is the day before the dawn; and after the firestorm of God's storms the brightest hues of his rainbow paint themselves on the sky as a promise of fairer weather. So will it be in November.

In response to the complimentary invitation with which you honored me, I stand here to-night, not to tell you anything novel or striking; not to defame with vulgar abuse, President Grant; but simply to join my voice in earnest union with those of the able gentleman already addressed you in behalf of our common cause; and to add my feeble words of encouragement to theirs, as a staunch believer and defender of our faith.

We come here to try and do good; representing all political beliefs and parties; and yet, in the interest of no party, no faction; in the interest of an almost obsolete Constitutional Law; in the interest of a progressing purity; in the interest of fraternal feeling; in the interest of Peace, and a brighter, broader civilization; in the interest of two tried and trusted men; two liberal, generous hearts two wise and fertile brains; in the hearty interest of four stout, strong

hands, that on and after the 4th day of next March, shall bear aloft, in plain sight of all our countrymen, the standard of Reform, on which the words of our motto appear in living letters of blazing light. "In America, Peace, good will to all the States;" and this in the interest of Horace Greeley and Gratz Brown.

I stand here in no partisan spirit. What I utter, I utter because I believe it to be true. This is the second political speech I ever made in my life; and the immense power we could wield, and a great fear has seized upon them that they are to be conquered in this combat and made to disgorge their spoils. They fear the axe of the Chappaqua farmer is about to be laid at the foot of the Tree of Corruption, which has been to them so long a boon, and with one accord they fling aloft their arms, and cry, "Oh, Woodman spare that Tree touch not a single bough, for years it's sheltered us we would protect it now!" No, never, we have buckled on our armor in sober earnest now, and are marching for purer legislation, juster laws, a rapid reconciliation of opposing elements, the healing of wounds, which long years ago should have been staunch, the unearthing of federal corruption, the plucking away with strong hands and relentless fingers the foul sores on our body politic, and the regeneration and recreation of our whole country. We have in our midst as you, too well know, alas, from both parties—Republicans and Democrats—a set of leeches called men, upon whose snake like sneaky features no God has ever stamped his likeness and set the seal of manhood. These, in all their hideous deformity, we would rest from their sheltered nooks in the lap of the nation, whose life-blood they are draining, and consign them to the executioner. To the vultures and the condors of the air, securing carrion in every breath, belong this class of men, who are robbing our Treasuries, filching from our widows and orphans, left desolate and suffering when the blood-red blossom of war, with its heart of fire, swept over our land. Plunged in their path-way even, I doubt not these foul and noisome birds would reject the unsavory morsel! Now, as we are to-night, my fellow citizens, to discuss, in a friendly way, the state of affairs in our midst, if you will bear with me, I will as briefly as possible review our record for the past few years, and leave it to your calm, dispassionate judgment, whether we have reason to demand a change in the management of our Government, or not.

The records of the war will be emblazoned by some future historian in letters which will burn, and each prominent character will get his just deserts. The civil crown was accepted by Gen. Grant. And if there be any ardent admirer here to-night of his military genius—any warm friend who intends to cast his vote in November to continue him in office—will he tell me truly if he thinks the head of the wearer was adapted to the honor that was placed upon it; and if he can advance as strong arguments to prove his idol a statesman as we can to prove him a political failure, I wish we could meet upon this platform day after day until the election, with our friends on the outside, who support Grant, in calm, deliberate arguments man to man.

In his inaugural address General Grant used these words: "I accept the responsibility of the position without fear!" Shades of Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Adams, what say ye to this? He accepted the gigantic trust confided to his care without fear! What a mockery is this! An inspired poet said over two centuries ago "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Brave Grant, he had no fear; he would take this great land of ours as a hired nurse accepts the situation to tend the puling babe, give it milk when hungry, fuddle it when the notion struck him, spank it when occasion required! Now let us see how this babe has been taken care of by our fearless friend. During the Administration of Mr. Johnson, General Grant, then commanding our armies, was sent by the Government on a special mission throughout the Southern States, that he might see and converse with the people, and judge for himself whether those who had been in rebellion had accepted the situation, and were ready to do their

duty as citizens of the Union. He was there some time. When he returned he reported to the President that the Southerners had in a proper spirit conformed themselves to the laws of the land; that they were in no rebellious spirit, but suffering from direct poverty, and, in fact, where completely crushed in hearts and hopes, and possessed nothing but their desolated fields and pleasant climate. This was made upon his word as a soldier. Months rolled on. He delivered his inaugural, and its most memorable phrase was "Let us have peace." I have no doubt his intentions were good, and that he truly desired to rule that broken section with a generous hand. But at the earliest opportunity his promises were violated, and listening to the foul lies of unprincipled men who, despised and abandoned in their own homes, had gone South to pray like so many harpies on its vitals, and also succumbing to the influence of a frantic Congress, he let loose upon the very places he had favorably reported upon, his cavalry, and artillery, and infantry, and by a rule of force attempted to coerce into the favor of Radical measures the entire people. He appointed to office numbers of his own relatives in direct opposition to the rules laid down by his best and wisest predecessors. Review the careers of General Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Adams—indeed, of all our Presidents down to the present day, and you will discover each and all almost invariably declined to appoint their own relatives to office. And we have on record several letters from Washington, Madison and Adams, wherein they with great delicacy declined to accede to the relatives in this respect. But we might pardon our President if his kin were men of ability: Not one now holding office can be so considered. He accepted gifts, which action in men of lesser rank would have been considered as taking bribes, and almost all who have shored these presents on him have been honored with public office. By his arbitrary will and order that sacred writ of personal liberty, the Habeas Corpus has been suspended. We are told we must vote for the authors of this outrage: that we must continue in power and pat on the head that despotic party which has placed at the mercy of the President, by unconstitutionally suspending this writ, the liberty of every human being in our Republic! Federal interference has been used in State elections, and almost at the point of the bayonet they have carried, and no removal from the military genius who said "Let us have peace." An armed vessel of war has been used to carry away from Louisiana members of the Legislature in order to deprive it of a quorum. No remonstrance from Grant, and his brother-in-law who gave the villainous command still holds his office there. What a glorious government to vote for! Elections have been carried by threatening the officers of the Administration with fines and imprisonment if the wishes of the man, who, from his acts, might be considered as God's vice-gent on earth, were not obeyed! Oh! let us embrace this magnificent Administration! It has bent all its vast energy to deprive the States of the South of local self-government, and to concentrate all power in the hands of Congress and the President. It has stooped so low as to discharge from office laborers in arsenals and navy yards because they cast their ballots in accordance with the dictates of their own judgment! What a beautiful government thus to crack its party whip over the shoulders of poor industrious men, because God gave them consciences! Such treatment is worse to these hard-working men who have families to support than the rack of the thumb-screw! This immaculate and humane administration has marched like sheep to the shambles other poor laborers to the polls in serried ranks and made them vote marked tickets under the very eyes of government agents! Oh! this delicious peace making administration!!

The accounts of our Treasury have been so jumbled up in inexcusable confusion that no man can tell the amount of the public debt, or our yearly expenses. Are you satisfied, men of San Francisco with the conduct of foreign affairs wherein the policy of the government has been reversed even from its foundation, a policy that favored the extension and not the restriction of the rights of neutral nations? Have the insults Spain has heaped upon us been properly repelled? Have we followed the instincts of our Republican institutions and favored the Independence of Cuba that sits a sorrowing queen upon

her throne of beauty in the midst of the seas, and stretches out her hands to us for protection? Were not the plainest provisions of statute law rudely violated when the Government permitted the sale of arms to the French in their war with the Germans? President Grant wanted San Domingo, but could not get it, and because Senator Sumner opposed his act which was contrary to law, he stabbed him in the back, and now the Radicals cry out because Sumner did not lend his aid to elect an unconstitutional ruler. To obtain from the tyrant Baez the sale of the island in direct opposition of Her law, President Grant treading under foot our Constitution, assumed the war making power and employed our naval forces to uphold this would be vendor of his country, and to menace the friendly Republic of Haiti! Oh! what an honorable administration this has been. God knows we love such honorable men! Are they many men in this ward thoroughly satisfied with the manner in which our political affairs, at home and abroad have been managed? If not, can Radical chains keep them silent! Can they not throw of the trammels of party and expose the cause of a movement that embraces the whole country in its principles?

Look at the way in which the money matters of the nation have been cared for! The peculations and defalcations occurring during the reign of our President, are unequalled in the history of America. They amount to millions of dollars. And my Republican friends, if they are present, a Committee of Investigation, appointed to inquire into the management of the Civil Service composed of your own Republican party, reported to the President last December, "that it is calculated by those who made a careful study of the facts, that one-fourth of the revenues of the United States are annually lost in the collection, and for a large part of that loss a system of the service which is fatally unsound may reasonably be held responsible." These are the words of your own Republican Committee! And yet no barrier is placed in the way of these robbers and these gigantic swindlers. When Grant chooses to raise his clenched hand and put a stop to things personally annoying, he can do it. It seems to me when he is not concerned that hand hangs by his side paralyzed and dead.

Now how is it, that when Liberal Republicans and Democrats use their voices and their pens to cry aloud against this official rascality that appropriates for its own nefarious ends, about \$100,000,000 of Government funds annually; that the members of the party in power fight with might and main to stem the current of their influence, and hurl in their faces the vilest abuse? It is because, sir, the promise made by the President, when he was honored with the civic crown, to hold his office but for one term and to decline a re-election, has been broken up; and he now uses the vast political machinery of the Government, as no other Chief magistrate has done since America began her glorious course, to keep him in his lofty place. For this reason the Radicals in Congress have trumpeted under foot all measures introduced by patriotic and wise men, looking to a correction of existing evils.

To effect the President's re-election became the chief aim of the Administration; and the means chiefly relied on were these very men who had been so guilty—these trained bands of office holders—equally interested in the perpetuation of his power. To expose to the broad blaze of the light of day, the base acts of the guilty, among these political soldiers, would be to crush their ranks and their influences, and shock the whole nation by an official turpitude hitherto undreamed of. Without their aid, how could their Caesar enjoy the luxury of a second term, and they re-insert their itching palms in the full measure of the public pay?

Nothing was done, therefore, to arrest this flow of national disgrace, and we behold a spectacle that should be humiliating to every lover of his country—the spectacle of some of these very men, marching from one end of the land to the other, besprinkling with their nauseous praise the reeking, ranking corruption they themselves have fattened on; and shouting aloud for their retention in office, and Civil service Reform! Civil-service Reform, indeed, sir! Civil service Reform by such as they. Why, sir, take a single example of figures, at the little town of New-

Continued to fourth page.

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